

Adopt-A-Tree Program

The City of Durham's Urban Forestry Division in partnership with Keep Durham Beautiful invite you to help insure the future of Durham's green and shady roadways and parks. In doing so you will help to share the cost of purchase and planting street trees and trees in other public spaces like parks, and supply some critical early watering to help get there trees established. Residents or community groups who adopt a street tree pay for roughly half the cost of the tree (\$50 for ball and burlap trees, \$25 for containerized trees or \$10 for bare-root trees) and the City of Durham covers the other half as well as planting the tree.

What you do

First you need to do a quick survey of the place you want a tree to go and follow the directions which appear on the following page under "getting started". Once you have an estimated number and size of tree(s) you may select your preferred tree type and species from the list that comes next. Lastly, you fill out our Adopt-a-Tree Request Form and get it in by October 10th. The amount of your contribution to the program will need to be submitted to Keep Durham Beautiful to enable the tree to be purchased. Matching funds from the City will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis. Once funds are allocated additional requests will start the list for next year. . Each site will be individually evaluated for appropriateness , and each species request will be considered based upon availability and suitability to the site. If we find we are unable for any reason to honor your initial request, you will have an opportunity to discuss further options or withdraw from the program entirely.

You water the tree once a week during periods without rain for one year to establish the tree.

What we do

We work with you to determine a suitable location and tree type for your adoption. We purchase and plant the tree for you, and you may have the opportunity to assist with planting. Depending on location, we may provide mulch and/or temporary supplies such as staking supplies, trunk protection or gator bag for watering ease.

What we all get

This innovative program facilitates replanting of dead or damaged trees and enhances the tree canopy for all to enjoy. It also insures that trees will be scaled appropriately to the site so that common incompatibility problems and unnecessary costs can be avoided.

Getting Started

Step 1: Determine the number and size of tree your site can allow.

The following rules will help determine if a tree can be planted at a given location. Bear in mind, the goal of the program is to provide canopy, so if there is room for a large tree, don't request a small one!

No room:

A tree will not be planted if the following issues apply:

The "planting strip" width is < 3' wide (where sidewalk is present), There is existing dense canopy from surrounding trees in the vicinity, there are utility poles, signs, sunken meters and hydrants all crowded into the proposed space, or the selected site would create a visual obstruction at an intersection.

Small trees: "small trees" are trees with a height at maturity which will not exceed 30'. These are allowed under overhead powerlines or in sites where (in the absence of powerlines) where the planting strip is <4' wide. Small trees can be spaced 15'-20' apart and 10'-15' from utility and light poles.

Medium Trees: "medium trees" are trees with a height at maturity which will not exceed 60'. These are **not** allowed under overhead powerlines, and require a planting strip that is >4' wide. Medium trees can be spaced 25 – 35' apart and a minimum of 15' from utility and light poles.

Large Trees: "large trees" are trees with a height at maturity which may exceed 60'. These are **not** allowed under overhead powerlines, and require a planting strip that is >6' wide. Large trees must be spaced at least 35' apart and 15' – 20' from utility and light poles.

Other considerations

In addition, the minimum distance between all trees and

access or courtesy walks is 5 ft.

manholes & storm drains is 10 ft.

fire hydrants is 10 ft.

water meters / utility boxes is 5 ft.

Minimum distance between all large maturing trees and structures is 10 ft.

Minimum distance between all small maturing trees and structures is 6 ft.

Step 2, select a tree “type”.

Trees come from nurseries in one of three “types”. From largest and most expensive to smallest and least expensive they are as follows:

Ball and Burlap (B&B). These are typically measured in “caliper” inches, a measure of diameter taken 6” above grade. Average B&B trees offered through this program are 2” caliper. Heights vary from ~8’ for small ornamental varieties to 12’ for shade trees. These can only be dug and transported in the fall and winter and require heavy equipment to move around. The cost to you for a B&B tree is \$50/tree.

Container Grown (Container). These are typically measured by the size of the pot that they come in, which are standardized by the nursery industry. Average container trees offered through this program are in #15 pots. Heights vary from ~6’ for small ornamental varieties to 10’ for shade trees. These can be transported and planted in the fall through early spring and can be handled without a lot of specialized equipment. The cost to you for a container tree is \$25/tree.

Bare Root (BR): These are typically measured by height. Average BR trees offered through this program are 7’ tall. These can only be transported and planted in the late winter and can be handled without a lot of specialized equipment. The cost to you for a container tree is \$10/tree.

Step 3, select a tree.

Scientific name has been supplied below to allow for an internet search of the types of trees on offer. There is a lot of information out there, but the universities seem to have the most comprehensive listings.

Availability is going to vary year by year, but typically these are what we plant by type and size:

Small Trees

- **Small B&B:** Chionanthus retusus, Pistacia chinensis, Quercus Georgiana, Cercis Chinensis 'Avondale', Cercis reniformis 'Oklahoma', Acer buergerianum 'Aeryn', Carpinus caroliniana, Ulmus x carpinifolia 'Frontier'
- **Small Container:** Carpinus caroliniana, Chionanthus retusus, Ostrya virginiana, Lagerstroemia x indica (multiple varieties), Parrotia persica
- **Small Bare Root:** (no availability 2012/13 season). Past availability included Pistacia chinensis and Acer buergerianum 'Aeryn'.

Medium Trees

- **Medium B&B:** Ulmus parvifolia 'Bosque', Ulmus x wilsoniana 'Prospector', Zelkova serrata 'myrimar', Acer rubrum (multiple varieties), Acer Saccharum (multiple varieties), Nyssa sylvatica, Maclura pomifera 'White Shield',
- **Medium Container:** Ulmus x morton glossy 'Triumph', Acer rubrum (multiple varieties), Acer Saccharum (multiple varieties), Nyssa sylvatica
- **Small Bare Root:** Acer rubrum (multiple varieties), Acer Saccharum (multiple varieties), Nyssa sylvatica

Large Trees

- **Large B&B:** Ulmus Americana 'Princeton', Quercus alba, Quercus lyrata, Quercus coccinea, Quercus bicolor, Quercus michauxii,
- **Large Container:** Quercus bicolor, Tilia americana
- **Large Bare Root:** Quercus lyrata,

Step 4, fill out the following form

CITY OF DURHAM ADOPT-A-TREE REQUEST FORM

Name: _____ Phone #: _____, _____

Email: _____

Address of planting location (one address per request)

_____ Neighborhood (if known): _____

Or, Name of Park, Greenway or "Other": _____

Estimated number of trees for site _____

Tree type (check one) Ball and Burlap ____ Container ____ Bare Root ____

Estimated participation fee \$ _____

From list on previous page, please list in order of preference your top 3 species choices:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Thank you for your participation! A representative will contact you back confirming your request and setting up any necessary follow-up.

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